



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch (1145b)  
Post Office Box 6898  
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-6898

**PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:** 16 July 2004  
**EXPIRATION DATE:** 16 August 2004  
**REFERENCE NUMBER:** POA-2004-1007-2  
**MARINE WATERWAY:** Beluga Slough

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan.

**APPLICANT:** City of Homer, 3575 Heath Street, Homer, Alaska 99603.

**LOCATION:** The project site is in section 20, T. 6 S., R 13 W., Seward Meridian, Latitude 59.63° N., Longitude 151.53° W., in Homer, Alaska.

**WORK:** Relocate and maintain the tidal opening to Beluga Slough.

**PURPOSE:** Eliminate erosion of private property and maintain the current functions of the Beluga Slough estuary.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The Corps of Engineers recently authorized Mr. William Bell to relocate the tidal entrance under permit number 2-2002-0977, Beluga Slough 5. However, limited in scope by the State of Alaska, Mr. Bell was required to stay within his property lines when conducting the work. This proposal by the City of Homer would extend the tidal opening northeast, onto tidelands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS has an interest in developing an estuary education program at the recently opened Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center in Homer. Relocation and maintenance of the opening to the proposed location would help foster this program, ensure continued tidal flushing, and maintain estuary functions of Beluga Slough.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CERTIFICATION: Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone, Management Act of 1972, as amended by 16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3), requires the applicant to certify that the described activity affecting land or water uses in the Coastal Zone complies with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. A permit will not be issued until the Office of Project Management and Permitting, Department of Natural Resources has concurred with the applicant's certification.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are five registered or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. They are designated as the Harrington Cabin, Putnam/Hewlett House, Homer Cash Store, Jones House, and Homer Post Office. Because they have been determined to be outside of the project area, no further action is required.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between the Federal government and Federally recognized Tribes. This notice invites participation by agencies, Tribes, and members of the public in the Federal decision-making process. In addition, Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This Public Notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Engineer during the public comment period.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed work is being evaluated for possible effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996 (MSFCMA), 16 U.S.C. et seq and associated federal regulations found at 50 CFR 600 Subpart K. The Alaska District includes areas of EFH as Fishery Management Plans. We have reviewed the January 20, 1999, North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Environmental Assessment to locate EFH area as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

(B). We have determined that the described activity may adversely affect EFH. The proposed work may affect approximately 3.4 acres of EFH for arrowtooth flounder, flathead sole, pacific cod, rock sole, sculpins, walleye pollock, and yellowfin sole. This Public Notice initiates consultation requirements with the NMFS under the MSFCMA. We have insufficient information at this time to assess the cumulative effects of the proposed work on EFH, but cumulative effects will be considered in our final assessment of the described work. Any conservation recommendations regarding EFH for federally managed fish will also be considered in our final assessment of the described work. This proposed project may also adversely affect associated species such as major prey or predator species which are not covered by Fishery Management Plans.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: This project proposal is located within the Kachemak Bay State Critical Habitat Area.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Jack Hewitt at (907) 753-2712, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at [jack.j.Hewitt@poa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:jack.j.Hewitt@poa02.usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this notice.

**AUTHORITY:** This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

(X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States - Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States - Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

A plan, Notice of Application for Certification of Consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program, and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are attached to this Public Notice.

District Engineer  
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Attachments

PROJECT: BELUGA SLOUGH  
OUTFALL MODIFICATIONS  
LOCATION: HOMER  
WATERBODY: KACHEMAK  
BAY

SHEET: 1 OF 5  
DATE: JUNE 2004

Diamond Ridge

SKYLINE

WEST HILL  
ROAD

DRIVE

ROAD  
ADAMS  
DR.

EAST END

MAIN  
BARTLETT

PIONEER

HOMER  
BYPASS

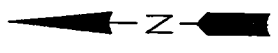
AIRPORT  
KACHEMAK DR.

BELUGA LAKE

OCEAN

KACHEMAK BAY

HOMER SPIT ROAD

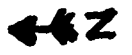


# Project Location

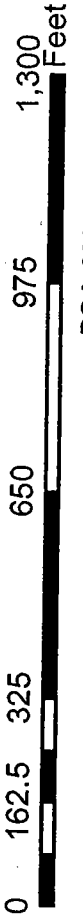
## LOCATION MAP

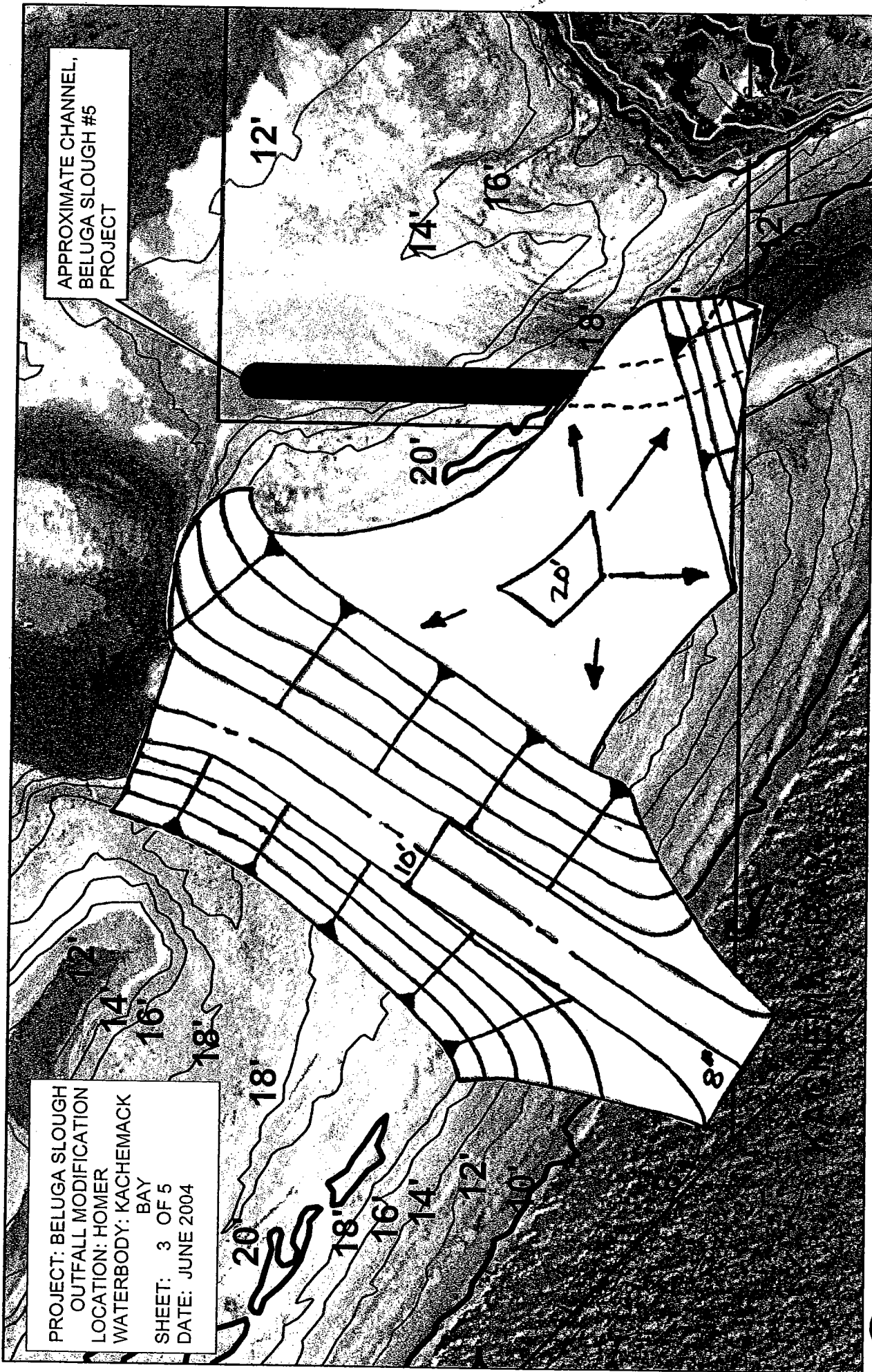
PROJECT: BELUGA SLOUGH  
OUTFALL MODIFICATION  
LOCATION: HOMER  
WATERBODY: KACHEMACK  
BAY  
SHEET: 2 OF 5  
DATE: JUNE 2004

PROJECT  
LOCATION

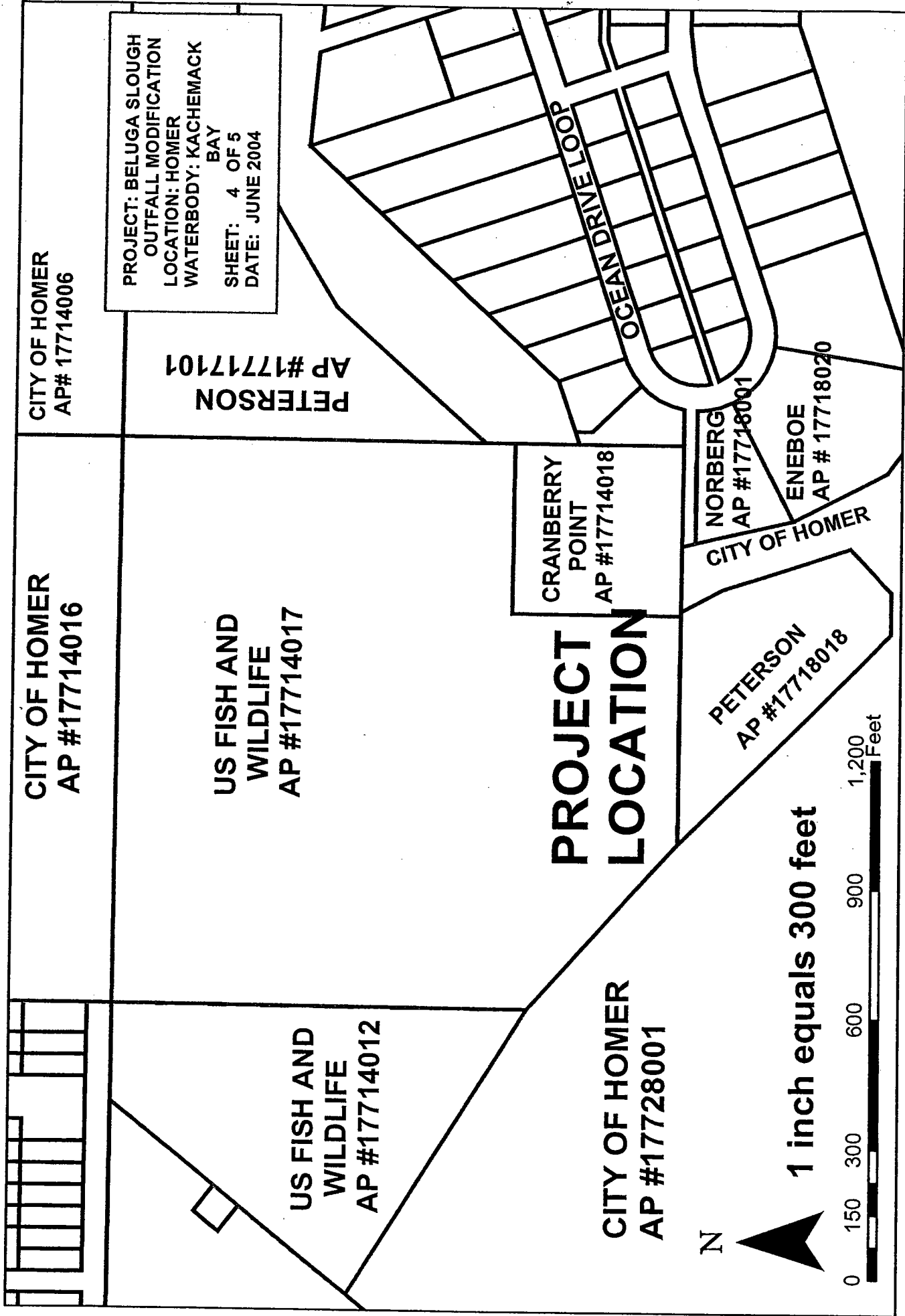


1 inch equals 300 feet





1 inch equals 100 feet



**ADJACENT OWNERSHIP GRAPHIC**



PROJECT:

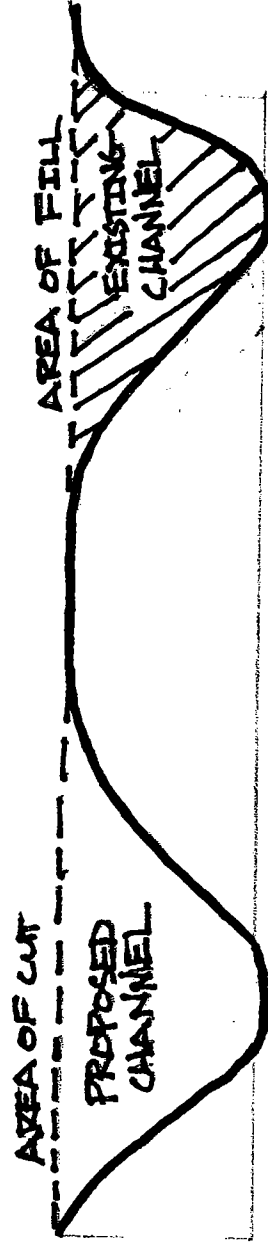
BELUGA SLOUGH

OUTFALL MODIFICATION

LOCATION: HOMER

WATERBODY: KALHEMAY BAY

SHEET 5 OF 5



SCALE: NTS

# STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

### DIVISION OF WATER

401 Certification Program

Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. **POA-2004-1007-2, Beluga Slough**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify that there is reasonable assurance that the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification may submit written comments within 30 days of the date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice to:

Department of Environmental Conservation  
WQM/401 Certification  
555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2617  
Telephone: (907) 269-6281  
FAX: (907) 269-7508

Attachment

# STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING**

ALASKA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT  
550 WEST 7<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SUITE 1660  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3568

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
FOR  
CERTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE  
ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Notice is hereby given that a request is being filed with the Office of Project Management and Permitting for a consistency determination, as provided in Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3)], that the project described in the Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. **POA-2004-1007-2, Beluga Slough**, will comply with the Alaska Coastal Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

The Office of Project Management and Permitting requests your comments, particularly on the proposed project's consistency with the affected local coastal district management program. For more information on the consistency review contact OPMP at (907) 269-7470 or (907) 465-3562, or visit the ACMP web site at <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/gdc/Projects/projects.html>.

Attachment